

MARCH 2013

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# BATH OF THE MONTH

Design by KYLE TIMOTHY BLOOD

Cape Cod, Massachusetts

No need for reservations. To be transported to the Casbah, just step this way.

Interview by  
CHRISTINE PITTEL

Photographs by  
ERIC STRIFFLER



The mesmerizing patterns of Moroccan tile, from Mosaic House, evoke the atmosphere of a traditional hammam. Kohler's Underscore BubbleMassage tub is rimmed with Princess White quartzite. Olympia fixtures in polished chrome by Waterworks. Swinging doors made of Mosharabi panels from Mosaic House, painted in Benjamin Moore's Titanium, lead to the water closet. Rock crystal candlesticks by Erika Brunson through John Rosselli.

**CHRISTINE PITTEL:** *All aboard for the Marrakesh Express!*

**KYLE TIMOTHY BLOOD:** You're on the right track. When we started this project, the husband told me that when he was 19, he went to Fez and fell in love with Moroccan tile. He said, 'You and my wife can do anything you want in the rest of the house. All I want is a Moroccan bathroom.'

**You delivered. Have you ever been to Morocco?** No! I have to admit I was worried about that. How could I know what he meant without experiencing it myself? The closest I could get was Mosaic House, this great tile store in Manhattan. I walked in, and 10 minutes later I walked out, completely overwhelmed by all the patterns and colors. How was this going to work in what was supposed to be a serene beach house? If I got it wrong, it could easily have been jarring.

**So what did you do?** I ordered 10 books on Morocco from Amazon and spent the weekend in bed, reading and marking things with Post-it notes. I realized that this exotic new vocabulary still follows the same cardinal rules of color, proportion, and scale.

**Okay... but this feels infinitely more complex. Where did you start with all these patterns?**

The first step was to break it down. Islamic design is all about one space unfolding into another, but you still want to define each area. Here, I thought of it as

creating rooms within a room. The shower is one room. The tub, the vanity, and the water closet are others. And I could define each 'room' through tile. *I see... each is a little different, yet it all relates.* There are recurring colors and patterns, so it feels cohesive. But each area has its own motif. I found a picture of that rosette medallion in one of my books, and Mosaic House re-created it for me. It's placed over the tub, to act as a focal point. In the shower I used the same border that's around the medallion, but in different colors. The overall shower tiles add more pattern—one for the walls and another on the floor of the stall. On the rest of the floor, I did a T-shaped carpet of tile in yet another pattern.

*Very witty—that virtual carpet. And different. Most people would have put the major pattern on the walls, not the floor.* And did you notice how the 'carpet' runs right under the vanity? That vanity has legs, which gives it a feeling of lightness. Finally, to unite all these spaces, a border in yet another pattern runs like a ribbon around the whole room.

*That ribbon stands out against the simpler tile on the walls.*

I love those opalescent tiles. They're the reason the room feels soothing. Your eye moves from the colorful geometrics to the plainer background, and the tiles are made in a diamond shape that reads as >>

## BATH OF THE MONTH

Casey Cof. Massachusetts

this intriguing texture. I wanted to keep that play of tension and serenity. You'd stop seeing the Moroccan patterns, in a way, if they covered every single surface. Doing a room like this is all about balance. I kept asking myself, 'Is it too much, or not enough?' We must have done go computer renderings of various tile combinations until I was sure we had it right.

**What's on the counters?** Quartzite, which has the same opalescence as the wall tiles. White marble would have just faded into the woodwork.

**But this is not ordinary woodwork!**

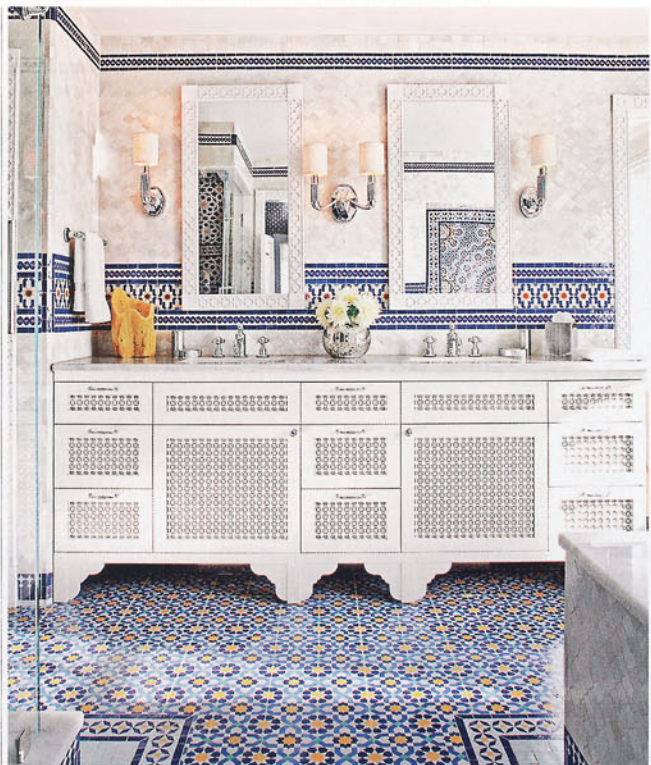
You're right. The lattice panels on the vanity, and the door and mirror casings, were hand-carved in Morocco and shipped to the site. That style of screening is called Mosharabi. It gives you light and air as well as privacy.

**That tub looks tempting.**

The wife can lie there comfortably against the sloped back and stare out the window at the stars at night. The husband prefers the steam shower.

**Any other sybaritic treats?**

A speaker system, so you can play music to complete the experience. And we joked that the sinks had to be big enough to double as ice buckets, because this is where all the parties will end up. Everybody is going to want to see the Moroccan bathroom! ●



### SHE LIKES

"A few drops on dry hair restores moisture, whether in winter or after a day at the beach."



BACKSTAGE V.I.P. PRE-TREATMENT OIL; SPARKLEBEAUTYSTUDIO.COM.

1. Lattice panels make a large vanity look light and airy. 2. The Olympia faucet by Waterworks combines clean lines and an antique shape. 3. A medallion of tile over the tub has the impact of a painting.

### GET THE LOOK...

Tile and woodwork: mosaichse.com.

Tub and sinks: kohler.com.

Olympia faucet: waterworks.com.

Paris sconces: urbanarchaeology.com.

Pirouette hardware: restorationhardware.com.

Paint: benjaminmoore.com.

FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES